

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAIGON 00382 101456Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 CU-04 SCCT-01 NIC-01 IO-10 /072 W

----- 119847

R 101120Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1781

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CANTHO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHATRANG

UNCLAS SAIGON 00382

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: POPULAR REACTION TO PHUOC LONG

DEPARTMENT PASS IMMEDIATE IBS/NCA

1. DEMONSTRATIONS AND RALLIES HAVE BEEN HELD IN ALL REGIONS OF SVN OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS TO PROTEST THE COMMUNIST SEIZURE OF PHUOC LONG. MOST OF THE DEMONSTRATORS HAVE BEEN STUDENTS, CIVIL SERVANTS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, VETARANS AND THE LIKE, GENERALLY THE MEETINGS HAVE FOCUSED AROUND DELIVERING PROTEST DECLARATIONS TO THE LOCAL ICCS HEADQUARTERS AND HAVE BEEN PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY.

2. THE MOST PROMINENT AND LARGEST DISPLAY OF POPULAR REACTION TO THE FALL OF PHUOC LONG WAS A THREE-HOUR RALLY ESTIMATED BY POLICE AT 35,000 STUDENTS, GOVERNMENT WORKERS, VETERANS, PEOPLE' SELF-DEFENSEMEMBERS, A FEW LABOR UNION MEMBERS, CYCLO DRIVERS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS ORGANIZED IN DOWNTOWN SAGON BY THE PROVINCAL COUNCIL OF PHUOC LONG AND THE MAJOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF SAIGON ON THE MORNING OF JAN 10. SPEAKERS DURING THE THREE-HOUR RALLY, INCLUDED SAIGON MAJOR NHIEM, SAIGON UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAIGON 00382 101456Z

AND PHUOC LONG PROVINCECOUNCIL CHAIRMAN, AND REPRESENTATIVES

OF GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN THE RALLY.

3. THE RESOLUTION STEMMING FROM THE SAIGON DEMONSTRATION COVERS THE SAME BASIC THEMES WHICH ARE ECHOED IN OTHER RALLIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IT:

- A. PRAISES THE SPIRIT OF THE DEFENDERS OF PHUOC LONG AND PLEDGES ASSISTANCE TO THE REFUGEES (THE SAIGON CITY COUNCIL DONATED \$VN 1 MILLION);
- B. DENOUNCES COMMUNIST VIOLATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT;
- C. APPEALS TO THE UN, THE ICCS AND ALL FREEDOM LOVING COUNTRIES TO FORCE THE COMMUNISTS TO CEASE THEIR AGGRESSION;
- D. APPEALS TO FREEDOM AND PEACE LOVING COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT THE RVN; AND
- E. AFFIRMS NATIONAL UNITY TO SUPPORT THE RVN AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN ALSO NUMEROUS OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS IN SAIGON AND ELSEWHERE IN RECENT DAYS, MOSTLY ASSOCIATED WITH PRESENTING PROTESTS OVER THE PHUOC LONG ATTACK TO THE ICCS.

5. ON JAN 6, 7 AND 9 THREE DIFFERENT GROUPS REPORTED AT 200, 100 AND 500 RESPECTIVELY MARCHED PEACEFULLY TO DELIVER PROTEST PETITIONS TO THE ICCS SAIGON HEADQUARTERS.

6. IN MR-1 TWO DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE JAN 9: QUANG TRI (2,000) AND DANANG (30,000). ANOTHER TWO ARE GOING ON TODAY IN QUANG NAM (ESTIMATED AT 10-13,000) AND QUANG TIN. ALL DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN PEACEFUL, FOCUSSED ON DELIVERING PROTESTS TO THE LOCAL ICCS DELEGATIONS.

7. FOUR PLACES IN MR-2, PHAN THIET, PHAN RANG, KONTUM AND NHA TRANG, ARE REPORTED AS CITIES WHERE EITHER DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN HELD OR SMALLER DELEGATIONS HAVE DELIVERED PROTESTS TO ICCS LOCATIONS. THE LARGEST OF THESE WAS A RALLY OF 25,000 AT NHA TRANG FOLLOWED BY A MARCH OF 13,000 TO DELIVER A PROTEST NOTE TO THE ICCS HEADQUARTERS, A FOURTH SUCH IN TWO DAYS. HUNGARIAN DELEGATES CHANGED INITIAL PLANS NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ACCEPTING PROTEST AS CROWD MOOD BECAME ANGRY. DEMONSTRATIONS OR SMALL-SCALE RALLIES ARE REPORTEDLY TAKING PLACE TODAY IN PHU YEN, PHU BON, AND BINH DINH AT LEAST.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAIGON 00382 101456Z

8. DEMONSTRATIONS IN MR-3 IN THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE RUN FROM A HANDFUL TO 3,000, AND HAVE GENERALLY INCLUDED STUDENTS, GOVERNMENT WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS. MOST DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE OCCURRED AT ICCS OFFICES AND IN THOSE CASES WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN HELD ELSEWHERE, PETITIONS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO THE ICCS. AMONG THE PLACES WHERE DEMONSTRATIONS OF VARIOUS SIZES HAVE BEEN REPORTED ARE: BIEN HOA, RONG LA,

LONG AN, LONG KHANH, AND VUNG TAU. THE GROUPS ARE REPORTED AS GENERALLY ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL.

9. IN MR-4 TWO DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED: IN MY THO ON JAN 9 (20,000) AND ANOTHAER IN CAN THO (2,000) ON JAN 10. THEY HAVE INCLUDED STUDENTS, CIVIL SERVANTS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, ETC., AND AGAIN NO VIOLENCE IS REPORTED. THREE DELEGATIONS HAVE DELIVERED PROTESTS TO THE ICCS IN CAN THO; TWO WERE COMPRISED PRIMARILY OF DISABLED VETERANS AND A THIRD OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS. SCHOOLS ARE WIDELY REPORTED AS HOLDING CONVOCATIONS TO COMMEMORATE THE VALOR OF PHUOC LONG'S DEFENDERS, APPARENTLY AT THE ORDER OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

10. IN SAIGON THE MOST RESPECTED OF RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION POLITICAL GROUPINGS, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE RELEASED A DECLARATION ON JAN 8 STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE COMMUNISTS. THEY POINTED OUT THAT SINCE PHUOC LONG HAD BEEN COMPLETELY GVN CONTROLLED WHEN THE PARIS AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED, THE RECENT ATTACK WAS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT, UNDERSCORING THE COMMUNISTS' ACCELERATING OFFENSIVE. FACED WITH THE DANGER OF A RETURN TO TOTAL WAR AND A COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE SDA APPEALED TO THE ICCS AND TO SIGNATORIES OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ALIKE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO STOP THE COMMUNIST AGGRESSION.

THE ALLIANCE ALSO CALLED ON ALL NON-COMMUNIST VIETNAMESE OF WHATEVER POLITICAL LEANINGS OR RELITIOUS AFFILIATIONS TO UNITED CLOSELY AND TO FOCUS EFFORTS ON RESTORING PEACE.
MARTIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY OCCUPATION, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON00382
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750010-0957
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750161/aaaacbwo.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2003 by JonesKG>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POPULAR REACTION TO PHUOC LONG DEPARTMENT PASS IMMEDIATE IBS/NCA
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VS, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006